



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

May 12, 2009

Dear Members of the South Florida Water Management District Governing Board:

On April 1, 2009, after gathering key input from the public, legislators and South Florida's communities and recognizing the nation's current economic climate, I announced details of a revised strategy to acquire land for Everglades restoration. This proposal represents a balance for both the environment and the economy by allowing us to acquire vast tracks of property in affordable steps. It creates unprecedented possibilities for restoring the River of Grass and for protecting our environment.

I maintain my commitment to ensure support for the Glades communities and their economic well-being throughout this process. As we move forward with this historic purchase, my administration stands ready to assist in developing and diversifying the economy of the Glades region.

I continue to urge that our focus remain on the long-term benefits of this acquisition. Your decision is a historic one, and I encourage you to support this proposal. In doing so, you will secure a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to restore and revive the River of Grass.

I thank you for your service as a member of the Governing Board. I am also grateful to the staff of the Water Management District for their hard work, ingenuity and flexibility in finalizing an agreement that will bring meaningful benefits to the Everglades, while at the same time preserving the region's economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist

cc: Secretary Mike Sole  
Executive Director Carol Wehle